

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A tunneler, comprising:

a tip containing gripping means; and

a plurality of flexible shaft members extending from the tip, the plurality of shaft members having dissimilar lengths.
2. (previously presented) The tunneler of claim 1, wherein each shaft member is capable of being retained in the lumen of a catheter.
3. (previously presented) The tunneler of claim 2, wherein the shaft member is capable of being retained in the lumen by using a protrusion.
4. (original) The tunneler of claim 1, wherein the difference in the lengths of the shaft member ranges up to about 20 %.
5. (original) A tunneling system, comprising:

a tip containing gripping means; and

a plurality of flexible shaft members extending from the tip, the plurality of shaft members having dissimilar lengths.
6. (previously presented) The system of claim 5, wherein each tip shaft member is capable of being retained in the lumen of a catheter.

7. (previously presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the tip shaft member is capable of being retained in the lumen by using a protrusion.

8. (previously presented) The system of claim 7, wherein the difference in the lengths of the tip shaft members ranges up to about 20 %.

9. (previously presented) The system of claim 6, further comprising a tunneler shaft that is removably connected to the tip.

10. (previously presented) The system of claim 9, further comprising a sheath that covers a portion of the tip and tunneler shaft that are connected.

11. (previously presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the sheath is retained both on the tip and on the tunneler shaft.

12. (previously presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the sheath is retained on the tip using a retaining ring.

13. (previously presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the retaining ring complements the protrusion on a tip shaft member.

14. (previously presented) The system of claim 5, wherein only one tip shaft member is capable of being retained in the lumen of a catheter.

15. (currently amended) A tunneling system, comprising:
a tip containing gripping means and a plurality of flexible shaft members extending therefrom, the plurality of shaft members having dissimilar lengths;
a tunneler shaft removably connected to the tip and capable of creating a tunnel in the skin of a patient, the shaft made of rigid materials and containing a first end with a tapered section; and
a sheath covering a portion of the tip and the tunneler shaft that are connected.

16. (previously presented) The system of claim 15, wherein each tip shaft member contains a protrusion thereon.

17. (previously presented) The system of claim 16, wherein the sheath is retained both on the tip and on the tunneler shaft.

18. (previously presented) The system of claim 17, wherein the sheath is retained on the tip using a retaining ring.

19. (previously presented) The system of claim 18, wherein the retaining ring complements the protrusion on a tip shaft member.

20. (previously presented) The system of claim 15, wherein only one tip shaft member contains a protrusion thereon.

21. (original) A medical device, comprising:
a multi-lumen catheter; and
a tunneler with a tip containing gripping means and a plurality of flexible shaft members extending therefrom, the plurality of shaft members having dissimilar lengths.

22-25. (canceled).

26. (currently amended) A tunneler, comprising:
a tip containing gripping means;
a rigid tunneler shaft capable of creating a tunnel in the skin of a patient, the shaft made of rigid materials and containing a first end with a tapered section; and
a plurality of flexible tip shaft members extending from the tip, the plurality of tip shaft members having dissimilar lengths.

27. (previously presented) The tunneler of claim 1, wherein each tip shaft member is capable of being retained in the lumen of a catheter by using a protrusion.

28. (currently amended) A medical device, comprising:
a multi-lumen catheter;
a tunneler, comprising:

a tip containing gripping means; ~~and~~
a plurality of flexible tip shaft members extending from the tip, the plurality of tip shaft members having dissimilar lengths and capable of being retained in a lumen of a catheter by using a protrusion on the exterior of the tip shaft member; and
a tunneler shaft capable of creating a tunnel in the skin of a patient, the shaft made of rigid materials and containing a first end with a tapered section.